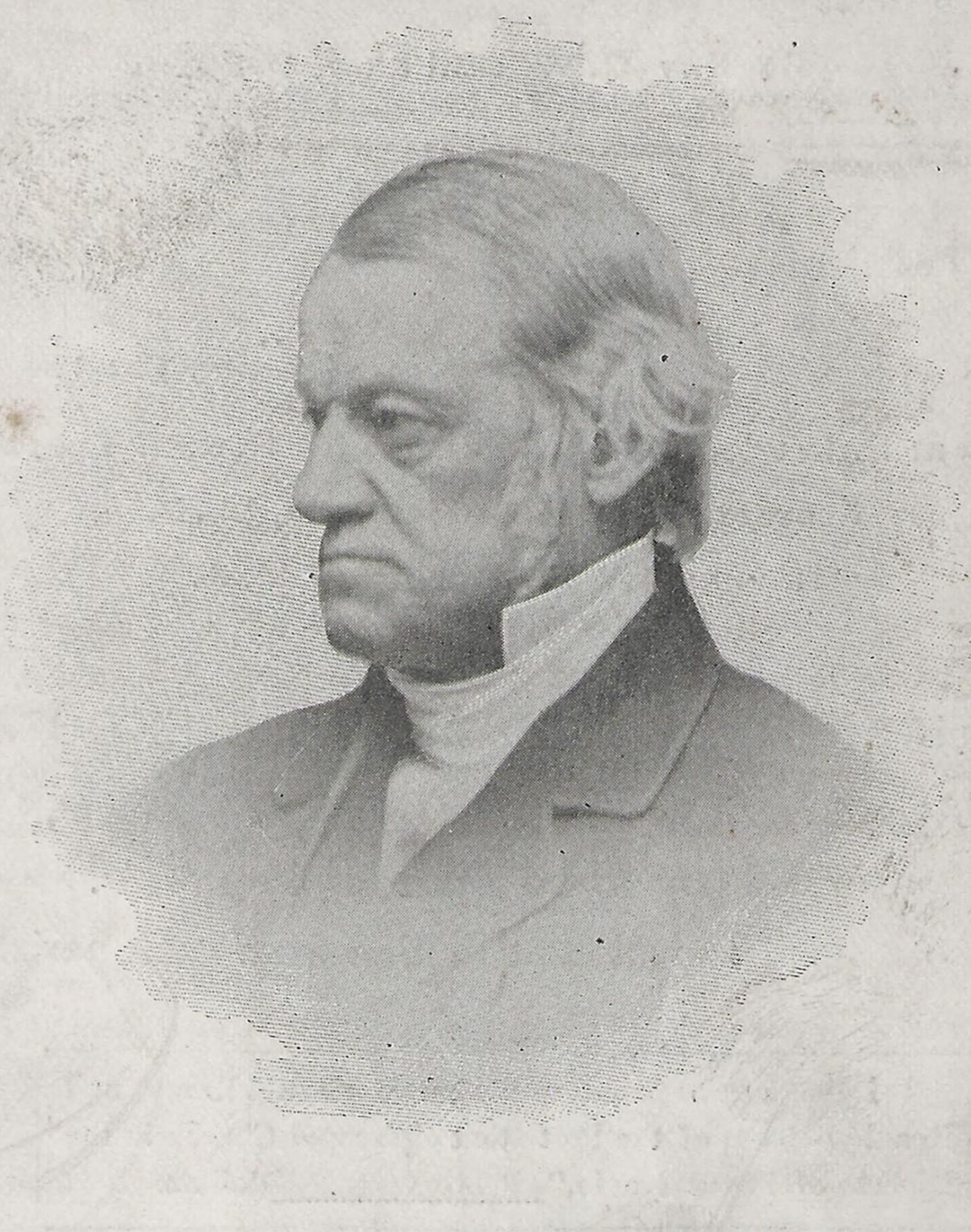
CHURCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DIOCESAN LIBRARY AND READING-ROOM,

IN THE

CHURCH HOUSE,

North East Corner Twelfth and Walnut Streets.



BISHOP ALONZO POTTER MEMORIAL.

The Library is Open Freely to the Public
from 10 A. M. to 5 P. M.,
Except on Sundays and Legal Holidays.

Board of Control of the Library.

President,

Rt. Rev O. W. Whitaker, D.D.

Secretary,

Rev. Robert C. Matlack, D.D
1910 Pine Street

Treasurer,

John Ashhurst, Jr. M. D.,
2000 DeLancey Street

Rev. William P. Lewis, D.D. **Judge M. Russell Thayer, LL.D**

Provost, Charles C. Harrison, LL.D.

Rev. Lucien M. Robinson, M. A.
Librarian of Divinity School.

THE LIBRARY SHOULD BE WELL ENDOWED.

At present it greatly needs annual members,
who will pay $5.00 a year and upwards.
Also a small annual contribution from each parish.

I give and bequeath to "The Diocesan Library and Reading Room of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Pennsylvania,".....dollars.

DIOCESAN LIBRARY AND READING-ROOM.

From the Address of Bishop Whitaker to the Convention of the Diocese of Pennsylvania. May 5th, 1896.

So long ago as 1860, Bishop Alonzo Potter, realizing the need of works of reference for the clergy, took the preliminary steps for establishing a library especially for the use of the clergy, and gave to it a large proportion of his own books. The breaking out of the war and Bishop Potter's failing health, and his death in 1865, diverted attention from the project, and nothing more was done toward carrying the original plan into effect until four years ago a prominent clergyman of this diocese bequeathed his valuable library to become the nucleus, after his death, of a library which should be a memorial of Bishop Potter. After further consideration he wisely decided to inaugurate the plan which he had in mind while he might be instrumental in giving it such a form as he believed would be most efficient for its usefulness.

In the Convention of 1893, upon the motion of the Rev. Dr. Matlack, it was resolved that a committee be appointed by the Bishop to take into consideration the matter of founding a diocesan library. At the Convention of 1894 the president announced the committee on the library, and the committee reported the plan of organization. At the Convention of 1895, on the report of this committee, the Convention responded heartily to the statement of Dr. Matlack's plan, and appointed a Board of Control, to which the management of all affairs pertaining to the library should be committed.

Dr. Matlack was convinced of the needs of a Church Library for the Clergy, Sunday school teachers and Christian workers generally, and so proposed giving the books which he possessed

as soon as a suitable place should be prepared for their reception. The Rev. Thomas K. Conrad, D.D., also expressed to the Bishop before his death his desire to give his theological library to the diocese so soon as a fire-proof room should be prepared. In making the plans for the erection of the Church House, the largest and most accessible room in the building was set apart for the purposes of a diocesan library, and it was opened with a public service on the evening of Monday, January 20, 1896. The Bishop opened the services with appropriate prayers. Dr. Ashhurst, in behalf of the Board of Control, presented the library to the diocese, and it was accepted by the Bishop. Addresses were made by the Rt. Rev. Henry C. Potter, D.D., Bishop of New York, and the Rev. S. D. McConnell, D.D. Dr. McConnell spoke of the present library as being remarkable for its large proportion of valuable books. Bishop Potter spoke of the great advantages which the clergy and the teachers of the diocese might derive from the opportunities which this library will afford, and contrasted the facilities of the clergy of this generation with those which were provided for the men of forty years ago.

The library comprises now three bequests, amounting altogether to about six thousand volumes: First, the books given by Dr. Matlack, which are placed in cases marked "The Bishop Potter Memorial;" second, the theological books of the Rev. Dr. Conrad, and also the literary portion of his library, which Mrs. Conrad generously presented, together with the cases and a part of the present furnishing of the library; third, a selection of the most valuable books belonging to the late Rev. John A. Childs, D.D., and which have been given by his family as a memorial.

Prior to the opening of the library Miss Lusia G. Price had been appointed librarian, and since January the library has been open daily, except Sundays and legal holidays, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the librarian reports that more than two thousand persons have made use of the books, and about two hundred have become members, which is a larger number than any one had anticipated during the first three months. The tables are supplied with current magazines and periodicals, but the chief attraction of the library seems to be the valuable books of reference, rather than the lighter literature. *Its use for reading and consultation is absolutely free.*

The current expenses have thus far been moderate, and have been met by a few persons, but it is very desirable to provide an assured income from an endowment. The Board of Control should have the means not only for meeting current expenses, but for making constant additions to the contents of the library. Only in this way will its value be permanently appreciated and continued. We cannot but regard it as a privilege to bear any part in carrying to completion any plan which the large minded and far seeing Bishop Potter undertook, and I cannot think it too much to hope that many of those who appreciate the great services which he rendered to this diocese and to the Church at large will be glad to take part in placing this Diocessan Library on a permanent foundation, by making a contribution towards its endowment in their wills, or, which is still better, while they are able to see the benefit of their gift.

REGISTRAR'S OFFICE.

In the rear of the Diocesan Library is the Registrar's office, and in the cellar below is an iron vault in which the most important records of the diocese are deposited; but it is considered that the library itself and the Registrar's room are both nearly as fireproof as any structures have been found to be. The Registrar has given much time to rearranging the collection of books, pamphlets, and papers in his department, and has brought some order out of vast confusion. Your Registrar is an expert in historical records, and knows the value of a stray journal or report, and he gives to the work to which you have appointed him much time and zeal. His work could be done to better advantage, however, if he were authorized to make a moderate expenditure in the exchange of documents and for the preservation of others beyond that which is already authorized by the canons.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF CONTROL.

The Board of Control of "*The Diocesan Library and Reading Room*" would respectfully report that they held their first meeting, Wednesday October 30th, 1895 at four o'clock, in the office of the Bishop of the Diocese, who is *ex-offico* President. The Bishop took the chair, and the Board organized by electing the Rev. Robert C. Matlack, D.D., Secretary, and John Ashhurst, Jr., M.D., Treasurer. The officers of the Board were appointed a committee to receive books and solicit contributions.

Doctors Lewis, Matlack and Ashhurst were appointed a committee to draft By-laws and Regulations for the government of the Board and regulations of the Library.

The committee reported the following, which were adopted :

BY-LAWS OF THE BOARD OF CONTROL.

1. The Board shall meet the first Wednesday of each month at 3 o'clock P. M., and at other times if called together by the President.
2. The Board shall elect annually a Secretary and Treasurer, who shall discharge the duties belonging to their respective offices.
3. The Treasurer shall have authority to pay all bills approved by the Executive Committee and endorsed by its Chairman.
4. The Board shall elect annually an *Executive Committee* of three, who shall have the oversight of the *Library* and *Reading Room*, subject to the direction of the Board of Control.
5. The Executive Committee may appoint an *Auxiliary Committee*, of twelve or more members representing various parishes, to aid them in increasing the Library, extending its influence, and providing for its support.
6. The Board shall make an annual report to the Convention of the Diocese.

REGULATIONS OF THE LIBRARY AND READING ROOM.

1. The Library and Reading Room shall be open daily, except Sundays and legal holidays, from 10 A. M. to 5 P. M.

2. Each member may take out two books at a time, but no book shall be kept longer than two weeks without renewal, nor shall the loan of any book be renewed more than once without permission of the Executive Committtee.
3. No book shall be taken from the library without a proper record with the name of the borrower being first made.
4. All books lost or injured shall be replaced or paid for by the borrower, at the discretion of the Board.
5. *Fines, etc.*—For keeping a book longer than the time allowed there shall be a fine imposed of ten cents for each week or portion thereof, and any one neglecting or refusing to pay the fines imposed, or to replace or make good the value of a book lost or injured, shall be deprived of the use of the library until the Rules have been complied with.
6. Books of great value, or such as cannot readily be replaced, shall not be taken out.

A communication from the *Trustees of the Diocese* and the Custodians of the Church House, was received, requesting the Board of Control to make such changes in the Fundamental Laws of the Library as would enable them to secure exemption from taxation. Legal advice was sought, and the opinion expressed, that the Convention had given the Board of Control such large powers that they might safely yield to the request of the Trustees and Custodians. We therefore made the required changes, and now submit the amended Laws and ask your approval of our action.

FUNDAMENTAL LAWS OF THE LIBRARY AND READING ROOM

I.—*Diocesan Library.*

The name of this organization shall be "*The Diocesan Library and Reading Room*" of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

II.—*Object.*

The object of the organization shall be to secure and maintain a Library and Reading Room by the donation and purchase of books, pamphlets, maps and manuscripts for *public use*, in the manner hereinafter specified.

III.—*Membership.*

(*a*) *Open Freely.*—The Library and Reading Room shall be *open freely* for reference and reading to all persons above fifteen

years of age, who shall register name and residence, and promise compliance with laws and general regulations of the library.

(*b*) *Privileged Members.*—The Clergy, Sunday-school Officers and Teachers, Theological Students, Deaconesses, Missionaries, Lay Readers, and Christians Workers generally, shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of the library *free of expense*, after they shall have duly registered as above.

(*c*) *Annual Members.*—Other persons, above fifteen years of age, may become Annual Members by the payment of *five dollars* a year, and duly registering.

(*d*) *Life Members.*—The payment of *one hundred dollars* shall entitle any person, above fifteen years of age, to all the rights and privileges of the library during the life of the person for whose benefit the money is paid.

IV.—*Board of Control*

The *Management* of "The Diocesan Library and Reading Room" shall be vested in a Board of Control, consisting of the Bishop of the Diocese, who shall be thePresident, and three other clergymen and three laymen, to be elected tri-annually by the Convention.

This Board shall have full power to make all laws and regulations necessary to give efficiency to the organization, including the loaning of books, and shall fill all vacancies that may occur in its body.

It will be observed that while these changes make the Library *free to the public for reading and reference*, we are still permitted to enroll Life Members, by the payment of $100 ; *Annual Members*, by the payment of $5.00 a year.

We would suggest, for your action, that the class of persons who may become "*Privileged Members*" be enlarged, so as to include Theological Students, Lay Readers, Bible Readers, Deaconesses, and Missionaries, or Christian Workers generally. The section will then read:

Privileged Members.—The Clergy, Sunday-school Officers and Teachers, Theological Students, Deaconesses, Missionaries, Lay Readers and Christian Workers generally, shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of the Library *free of expense*, after they shall have duly registered.

We acknowledge with gratitude the very generous provision which the Trustees of the Diocese and Custodians of the Church

House have made for the Library, in the large and handsome fire-proof room which they have placed freely at the disposal of the Board of Control of the Library. As soon as the room was ready for occupancy, it was well furnished, by a few friends of the Library, and the Board placed upon the tables various Church Papers, Reviews and Magazines, Church Almanacs, City Directories, and writing materials for the *free use of all visitors.* The first gift, of two thousand volumes and suitable cases, which forms the basis of the Library, was made by the Rev. Robert C. Matlack, D.D., to the Convention of 1892, as a *Memorial of the Rt, Rev. Alonzo Potter, D.D., LL.D.*, the third Bishop of the Diocese.

To this Memorial the donor is adding such books as are suggested by the Clergy and approved by the Executive Committee of the Board.

It is an interesting fact that the two large collections of books which are the foundation of the *Bishop Potter Memorial and the Diocesan Library,* were the libraries of two clergymen who were friends and fellow students in early life, and, after graduating from college, pursued their theological studies under the direction of Bishop Potter, were ordained by him at the same time, May 24th, 1857, and became Rectors of churches in Philadelphia.

Other friends of Bishop Potter are also adding to this Memorial, and it is hoped that some of them may be led to endow it. The Executive Committee have also purchased a few books, and added them to this Memorial. Soon after the "*Bishop Alonzo Potter Memorial*" was placed in the Library, Mrs. Conrad contributed a rare and valuable collection of more than 3000 books with substantial cases, as a Memorial of her husband, the late Rev. Thomas Kittera Conrad, D.D. A third collection of about 500 volumes with an appropriate case, has been presented to the library by the family of the late Rev. John A. Childs, D.D., as a Memorial of their father. Other contributions of books have been made by Rt. Rev. O. W. Whitaker, D.D, Rev. G. Woolsey Hodge, Rev. Daniel Kendig, Rev. Alfred L. Elwyn, Rev. S. F. Hotchkin, Rev. Gideon L. Burton, Mr. Thomas H. Montgomery, Mr. J. Vaughan Merrick, Dr. Benjamin Lee, Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Franklin, Mr. Geo. W. Jacobs, Mrs. Theodore S. Rumney, Mrs. Juliet C. Walker, Mrs. William Welsh, Dr. Charles R. King.

We have also received three fine oil portraits, one of Bishop Alonzo Potter, from Mr. Edmund A. Souder; of Bishop Wm.

Bacon Stevens, from Rev. Dr. S. D. McConnell; and of Bishop Arthur Cleveland Coxe, from Mr. W. W. Frazier; also a steel engraving of Bishop William White, from the Rev. Gideon J. Burton; crayon portraits of Bishops Onderdonk and Bowman from Miss Matlack and the Rev. Dr. Matlack. Partly through the generosity of the Rev. Dr. W. P. Lewis, and of Mr. Thomas H. Montgomery, the Library has been insured for $3,750,00 which is thought to be about half its value.

Early in January, we elected on the recommendation of Bishop Coleman, the Rev. Drs. Littell and McVickar ,and Dr. Benjamin Lee, and after personal interviews with the candidate, Miss Luisa G. Price as Librarian. She entered upon her duties on the 17th of that month, and has given very general satisfaction. The Library now being in fairly good order, it was formally opened, Monday January 20th, the Bishop presiding and making an address. Addresses were also made by Bishop Henry C. Potter, of New York, son of Bishop Alonzo Potter, and by the Rev. S. D. McConnell, D.D., and Dr. John Ashhurst, Jr. The Library has been open daily from 10 A. M. to 5 P. M. for about three months, and the Librarian reports from her records, that it has been visited and used by 2,242 persons, that she has enrolled 11 Life Members, 29 Annual Members, and 160 Privileged Members, or a total of 200 members. But few books have been loaned, many of them, however, have been renewed, and in some cases more than once; but the number of books loaned does not at all indicate the use made of the Library. Each week it is more and more visited for reading and reference. Indeed there has been a larger daily average attendance of visitors than was reported by the great Ridgeway Library for the past year.

We feel greatly encouraged with the success of the Library. It fills a vacant niche, as a *Library especially adapted to the needs of Christian Srudents and Church Workers.* It will be more and more appreciated when its wealth and fulness become known. At present we think it unequalled in some departments of sacred literature. There are on its shelves, according to the classification of the Librarian, about 1000 volumes of sermons, from eminent preachers of all ages; 400 volumes on the office and work of the ministry and Christian Biography; 600 volumes of Bible Exposition; 600 volumes of Church History and Polity; 300 volumes of Liturgics and Prayer Book exposition; 200 volumes of Missionary biography and records; 200 volumes of

Bible Study, inspiration, canon and criticism; 200 volumes of Christology and Sociology; 300 volumes of Systematic Divinity and Special Doctrines; 200 volumes of Personal Religion, and a large collection of miscellaneous works not yet classified, a total of about 7000 volumes. We have printed and sent through the Diocese, the Fundamental Laws and the By-laws of the Board, the Rules and Regulations of the Library; and cards of membership, and also an appeal for funds and books. Up to this time the expenses of the Library have been very moderate, and met by a few persons. It is important that we should have a regular and an assured income, though our requirements are not large.

The Library belongs to the Diocese; it will be of great service to the Church and to the general public, and we doubt not that you will provide for its support. We earnestly ask a small annual collection or donation from each parish until the Library shall be sufficiently endowed.

Presented for the Board.

ROBERT C. MATLACK,

Secretary.

BOARD OF CONTROL OF THE LIBRARY.

Rt. Rev. O. W. Whitaker, D.D., *President.*
Rev. Robt. C. Matlack, D.D., 1910 Pine St., *Sec'y.*
John Ashhurst, Jr., M.D. 2000 DeLancy St., *Treas.*
Rev. William P. Lewis, D. D.
Judge M. Russell Thayer, LL. D.
Provest Charles C. Harrison. LL, D.
Rev. Lucien M. Robinson, M. A.
Librian of the Divinity School.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE LIBRARY.

FREE AND PRIVILEGED.

OPEN FREELY.—The Library and Reading Room shall be *open freely* for reference and reading to all persons above fifteen years of age, who shall register name and residence, and promise compliance with the laws and general regulations of the Library.

PRIVILEGED MEMBERS.—The Clergy, Sunday-school Officers and Teachers, Theological Students, Deaconesses, Lay Readers, Missionaries, Bible Readers and Christian Workers generally shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of the Library *free of expense*, after they shall have duly registered as above.

Rev. William F. Ayer
Miss M. L. Austin
Miss H. P. Adams
Mrs. Robert Adams
Mrs. W. S. Auchinclose
Miss L. A. Ashmore
Rev. W. S. Baer
Rev. L. C. Baker
Rev. L. W. Batten
Rev. John G. Bawn
Rev. Alfred J. Barrow
Miss J. T. Bender
Mr. Albert Berry
Rev. C. E. Betticher
Miss M. D. Biddle
Miss M. Borland
Rev. S. H. Boyer
Archdeacon Brady
Rev. F. H. Bushnell
Mrs. T. H. Bushnell
Rev. James F. Bullitt
Rev. W. H. Burk
Miss A. P. Butler
Mr. Lewis E. Buckley
Miss Berta R. Babcock
Rev. James Crawford D.D.
Rev. W. H. Cavanagh
Miss Katherine Cheston
Rev. Fletcher Clark
Rev. S. R. Colladay
Dr. Elizabeth Clark

Rev. G. W. Gates, M.D.
Rev. Thos. J. Garland
Miss Lissie A. George
Rev. Edwin A. Gernant
Rev. Julius Gassaner
Rev. Richardson Graham
Miss J. H. Hall
Miss Millicent Halsey
Rev. J. M. Hayman
Rev. Willis H. Hazard
Rev. W. S. Heaton
Miss F. T. Hope
Rev. S. F. Hotchkin
Rev. H. M. G. Huff
Rev. William Hyde
Miss M. S. Hamilton
Mr. Robert Hamilton
Rev. E. B. Hodge D.D.
Rev. James Haughton
Rev. Robert F. Innes
Rev I. N. W. Irvine, D.D.
Rev. John A. Jerome
Rev. C. P. B. Jeffreys, Jr.
Miss Isabella L. Jones
Rev. J. W. Kaye
Rev. G. A. Keller
Mrs A. W. Kilgour
Miss M. L. Kirkpatrick
Rev. John K. Karcher
Miss Theodora C. Knauff
Rev. G. J. G. Kromer

Rev. W. F. C. Morsell
Mrs. E. P. Mustin
Mr. E. P. McCarthy
Mrs. E. P. McCarthy
Mr. Thos. Lewis Ogier
Rev. E. L. Ogilby
Rev. Daniel I. Odell
Mr. R. J. Ormiston
Miss Alice A Parsons
Mrs. S. Pearson
Rev. H. R. Percival
Rev. Elliston J. Perot
Miss Isabella H. Peters
Mr. R. Evans Peterson
Rev. H. L. Phillips
Mrs. F. M. Potts
Rev. J. B. G. Pidge
Miss Annie Quandale
Mr. W. Frank Reber
Rev. Edwin W. Rice, D.D.
Rev. Roland W. Ringwalt
Rev. L. M. Robinson
Miss Della M. Romich
Mrs. Henry E. Rood
Mrs. T. S. Rumney
Rev. Edward Ritchie
Mrs. Margaret Ruff
Miss J. E. Ringwalt
Miss Gertrude Spackman
Mr. James C. Sellers
Miss Caroline H. Sanford

Rev. Roberts Coles
Rev. C. L. Cooder
Miss S. W. Coster
Mr. A. J. Cottrill
Mrs. A. G. Cowan
Miss Sarah Crawford
Rev. B. J. Douglass
Rev. Thos. Duncan, D.D.
Miss Ettinger Davison
Rev. R. S. Eastman
Rev. L. B. Edwards
Miss Rose Elder
Rev. A. L. Elwyn
Miss E. M. Elwyn
Mr, W. E. Everett
Rev John G. Ewens
Rev. C. L. Fulforth
Rev. George G. Field
Miss E. W. Field
Mrs. L. C. Flagg
Mr. Geo. E. Fox
Miss E. B. Franklin
Mrs. Anne B. Heilman
Prof. C. H. Strout

Rev. F. A. D. Launt
Rev. A. T. de Learsy
Rev. A. Leffingwell
Mrs. C E. Lesley
Miss C. V. Lewis
Mr. Robert Long
Mr. Frank H. Longshore
Mrs. Anna M. Lukens
Rev. Edward T. Mabley
Rev. Charles A. Maison D.D.
Rev. H. C. Mayer
Mrs. E. A. Merritt
Miss F. D. Meyers
Mrs. John Mixer
Rev. W. W. Mix
Rev. John Moncure
Mrs. Morrow
Miss B. A. Nichuals
Mr. W. E. Neiler
Miss Mary Neilson
Rev. Charles Nagel
Miss Bessie Heilman
Miss Ada Heilman
Mr. W. H. Jefferys
Charles J. Barnes

Miss Amelia Sanford
Mr. Fred. E. Seymour
Mr. Philip J. Steinmetz, Jr.
Rev. T. J. Taylor
Rev. A. E. Tortat, M.D.
Rev. J. W. Thomas, D.D.
Miss Ellen Vail
Rev. Philip Vollmer, Ph.D.
Miss E. F. Wallace
Rev. Horace A. Walton
Mr. H. P Wartwright
Rev. Benj Watson D.D.
Mr. Edward M. Weeks
Mrs. Arthur Wells
Mr. George H. Wells
Mr. George M. Williamson
Rev. Albert D. Willson
Miss Georgianna White
Mr. J. B. Whitehead
Miss H. J. Wright
Rev. J. H. Webster
Mrs. S. G. Wheeler
Rev. C. Campbell Walker
Rev. E. K. Tullidge

ANNUAL MEMBERS, $5.00 AND UPWARDS.

ANNUAL MEMBERS:—Other persons above fifteen years of age may become Annual Members by the payment of *five dollars* a year and duly registering.

The following are Annual Members for 1896.

Rev. S. E. Appleton, D.D.
Dr. John Ashhurst, Jr.
Mr. T. Brown Belfield
Mr. Charles Biddle
Mrs. Charles Biddle
Mr. Presley Blackiston
Mr. Edward S. Buckley
Mrs. Evan Randolph
Mr. William Waterall
Rev. W. P. Lewis, D.D.
Rev. Maurice L. Cowl
Mrs. G. W. Childs Drexel
Mrs. Wm. W. Farr
Rev. G. Woolsey Hodge
Mr. William Hill
Miss Clara H. Matlack
Rev. J. R. Moses
Mrs. J. Campbell Harris
Mr. Thos. H. Montgomery
Rev. Robert A. Mayo.
Rev. S. D. McConnell, D.D.
Rev. J. Lewis Parks, D.D.
Mr. John P. Rhoads
Mr. G. C. Thomas
Mr. W. H. Lucas
Mr. Allen Childs
Mr. John Lucas
Mr. Charles Lukens
Dr. Charles R. King
Mr. Horace A. Doan

LIFE MEMBERS $100 AND UPWARDS.

LIFE MEMBERS:—The payment of *one hundred dollars* shall entitle any person above fifteen years of age, to all the privileges and rights of the Library during the life of the person for whose benefits the money is paid.

Rt. Rev. O. W. Whitaker D.D
Mrs. O. W. Whitaker
Mrs. Wm. Bacon Stevens
Mrs. J. S. Delbert
Miss Rebecca Coxe
Rev. Robt. C. Matlack. D.D.
Miss Clara H. Matlack
Miss Maria Blanchard
Mrs. Alexander Brown
Miss Mary Coles
Mr. Chas. P. B. Jefferys

The Diocesan Library.

ITS PLACE AND PURPOSE IN THE DIOCESE.

Essay Read Before the Clerical Brotherhood by Rev. Lucien M. Robinson, M. A., Libarian of the Divinity School.

The tendency of the times is to specialization in all branches of knowledge. This is true in the collection of books as in everything else. To-day in our city, if a young lawyer wished to find what had been published on any point in law he would turn to one of the great law libraries, and if a scientific man were in search of information on any scientific subject he would surely visit the library of the Franklin Institute or that of the Academy of Natural Sciences, while if the historian desired to investigate the History of the State or City he would instinctively turn to the magnificent collection of books in the Historical Society. But if the clergyman or Sunday-school teacher were searching for information on subjects which particularly interest them, they would find no such libraries at their service. If they looked in the two or three larger semi-public libraries, they might possibly find what they were in search of but would more likely be met with the statement that owing to the great demand for novels and the lighter literature the purchase of theological works had to be greatly restricted. That there is a need of such a collection of books as shall more fully meet the wants of the Christian—and Church—workers of our great city cannot be denied. This was felt by the late Bishop Alonzo Potter in his life time, and he not only contributed his own large collection of books as a foundation of such a library, but appointed a committee to arrange the details and effect an organization. In the latter part of the '50's the Library was opened for use at 524 Walnut street. But through the excitement caused

by the outbreak of the Civil War and the death of Bishop Potter at the close of that war, the subject of a Diocesan Library was allowed to drop out of sight for a time. About 5 years ago, a member of the original committee appointed by Bishop Potter about 40 years ago again interested himself in the matter and not only urged on the Convention of the Diocese the desirability and almost necessity of establishing such a Library, but also gave his own large collection of books as a first contribution toward it. The Convention readily responded to his suggestion and generously provided a room in the Church House for the purposes of such a Library. The central location of this room makes it easily accessible from all parts of the city, and it is thrown open freely to every one while it is the earnest wish of the managers that all who are any way interested in Christi an work, in whatever field, may make use of the books already on the shelves. These books now number about 7000 volumes and additions are constantly being made by gift and purchase. The majority of the books now in use have been given as Memorials.

Indeed the Library, as a whole, is intended to be a Memorial of the late Bishop Alonzo Potter, who first inaugurated this movement to establish a Diocesan Library. Throughout his life he appreciated the great value of books and especially to those whose duty it is to teach from the pulpit. While Vice-President of Union College and yet a comparatively young man, he wrote and published a work on books and reading containing much wise advice about the choice and use of books, advice which is still quoted, especially his twelve rules on *How to read.* No more fitting Memorial of this eminently wise educator, leader and pastor could well be conceived than this Diocesan Library if carried on and developed along the lines laid down by him. Adaptation to environment is one of nature's great laws which is verified in all conditions of life and in all spheres of human action and enterprise; under this universal law, any library in order to live and prosper must adapt itself to local needs, and special demands. And so an attempt will be made to adapt this Diocesan Library to its environment by making it a special library in the sense that only such works as pertain to the special field of Theology will be purchased, but even with this limitation the field is extensive including as it does such various subjects as the history of the Church—of the Creeds—of

the Sacraments—of Worship—Missions—Christian Socialism —Bible Study—Practical Church Work etc. An especial effort will be made to collect everything which relates to the history of this Diocese and its Churches from the Colonial times to the present. A good beginning has already been make in this direction. In the room adjoining the Library the Registrar to the Diocese has already arranged a large mass of matter of great historical interest, and inestimable value. But in order to make this department of the Library as complete as possible, it is earnestly desired that anyone having early files of Church Newis papers or Magazines, Church Year Books, Parish Papers, Puslished Sermons Preached in the Diocese,Mss. Histories of Parishes, accounts of Laying of Corner Stones or Dedications of Churches, or any other material which might be of value in such a collection and of great interest to the future historian of this Diocese —would either donate the same to the Library or deposit it for the use of those seeking information. We have scarcely made a beginning in this important work, and we need to arouse more interest and enthusisam in our history. The Presbyterian Historical Society of this city has more than 20,000 volumes, and the Baptists have recently lost by fire a valuable library nearly as large. We can scarcely over estimate such a collection lying as if must at the very foundation of any authentic history of the Church in this Diocese. In some departments the Library is already fairly strong. This is especially true in liturgical works, not generally found in libraries, but quite indispensable in a thorough study of our Prayer Book and forms of Worship, such are the works of Muaratori, Martene, Neale, Maskell, Scudamore Renaudot, Procter and Wordsworth Sarum Breviary, the Sarum Missal, the photographic reproduction of the English Standard Prayer Book, the Book annexed of 1662 and many other works on the ancient and mediaeval Liturgies.

Another department which is unusally well represented is that of Sermonic Literature. Here may be found a very full and carefully selected set of the great preachers of the English and American Church which is supplemented by a fine collection of the best French Sermons. On the shelves reserved for Missionary books can be seen the newest and most interesting works relating to Missons in all parts of the world and constant additions are being made to this department which must prove one of the most valuable in the whole Library. The study of these

PRAYERS USED BY BISHOP WHITAKER

AT THE

DEDICATION OF THE DIOCESAN LIBRARY,

JANUARY 20, 1896.

O, God, the Son, Eternal Wisdom of the Father, who was Thyself the Teacher of Thine Apostle, and of the multitude of the Jews, visit we beseech Thee with Thy gracious favor all places set apart for the pursuit of knowledge. Especially do we commend unto Thee this Library. Grant unto all those who come here to read or study, a right understanding in all things, that they may so use the opportunities afforded them as to derive the fullest benefit, and proving all things may hold fast that which is good, laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life. O, God, the Holy Ghost, the Lord and giver of life, quicken we pray Thee the perceptions of all who may seek here to perfect themselves in knowledge; enable them to distinguish between the changing systems of men, and the eternal truth, as Thou has revealed it in Him who is the Way and the Truth and the Life. Enlighten their minds more and more with the light of the Everlasting Gospel; graft in their hearts a love of the truth, and lead them by Thine unerring wisdom, in the paths of righteousness and peace. O, God, the Father of Lights and source of all knowledge, from Whom cometh every good and perfect gift, we give Thee thanks, as for all Thy other benefits, so especially for this Library. May Thy blessing rest upon those by whose liberal gifts it has been provided, and may there be no lack of willing hearts and hands to do all that may be needed for the full accomplishment of its purpose. May its blessings be enjoyed by many, and continued to the generations that are to come. May it be a well spring of light and truth to the Clergy and Sunday School Teachers, and Christian Workers of this Diocese, and to the People of this City. May their eyes thereby be enlightened unto counsel and knowledge, and may they show forth that which they shall have learned for the welfare of the Church and State and Nation, and for the advancement of Thy Kingdom upon the Earth. All which we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who has taught us when we pray to say: Our Father, etc.

The Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make His Face to shine upon us and be gracious unto us; the Lord lift up His countenance upon us, and give us peace, both now and evermore. Amen.

as in the business world. In many cases the larger libraries are very obliging and liberal in their policy towards those who wish to use their books. A plan has been adopted in some to loan books to the smaller libraries when asked to do so. In this city and vicinity there are more than 100 libraries classed as public by the Commissioner of Education, including under this term all those collections of books not owned by private persons. The aggregate number of volumes in these falls not far short of one million, and yet they are scattered in so many directions, that it would be impossible for a student to even guess where he might find any given book treating of some Church question. Besides this large number of books, there must be nearly if not quite as many more on the shelves of private owners, who would be willing to allow interested persons to consult them. Indeed some of these private Libraries contain a more complete collection of books in some one of the various branches of theology than any of the larger public libraries. The finest collection of books on Church History in the city, is owned by a private person, and the same might be said of Litnrgies and other branches. But the question is how to know where to find the book we want amid these numerous libraries. I have a friend who has long been searching for a copy of that rare and valuable work Tillemont's Ecclesiastical History, and was not able to find it in the city until very recently when be found a copy in the Conrad Library in the Church House. One of the Professors at the Divinity School has hunted the city over for a copy of the great critical edition of the Septuagent and has finally been obliged to import it; now he would most gladly share it use with others, but how are those others to know where it is? I mention these instances simply as examples of what is constantly occuring. The questions that are constantly repeated are, "where can I find such or such a book?" or "what are the best books on such or such a topic?" Now it would seem quite possible to devise some scheme or plan by which those in search of any work relating to the field of Theology could learn what books are within his reach here in Philadelphia. As a slight beginning a catalogue of the 15,000 volumes at the Divinity School might be kept at the Church House where it could be consulted, and from time to time the catalogue of the collection of books in the other Seminaries, as the one at Mt. Airy and Overbrook, might be added, as well as a list of the theological works in the Mercan-

tile and Philadelphia and University Libraries, and the other smaller libraries both public and private, until one in search of information on any Church question would instinctively turn to the Church House for direction and assistance. As the Bishop has said in his annual address, the especial field of this library would seem to be that of a *Reference Library*. And it has already shown its usefulness to those who have made themselves acquainted with its contents. The librarian's report shows that in the three months since it was opened it has had more than 2,000 visits, and it has been of great benefit to the students at the Deaconess House, and Sunday-school teachers. But up to this time only a comparatively few of the latter seem to have found this collection of books, and it is earnestly hoped that the rectors of the Churches will inform their Sunday-school teachers of its existence and encourage them to use it. But this Library is intended to meet the needs not only of the clergy and Sunday-school teachers but also of that large and increasing class of men and women who wish to inform themselves about what is being done in the Christian world at large, or who are interested in the history of the great Christian movements of the past. It should be the aim of such a library to furnish this class of persons the best aid possible in their efforts, by calling their attention to the best works in the various fields in which they are interested, guiding them in their selection of books and by lectures from time to time by persons who have made a special study of some important epoch or subject. Such lectures might be given on Early Church History, The History of Missions, The Early American Church, Christian Sociology and may other topics. If given with the co-operation of the Church Club, and supplemented by a course of reading, such lectures might interest a large number and prove highly beneficial to the Church life in our Diocese. In short the Diocesan Library should be made the central point of attraction for all the literary activities of the Diocese. Finally, the success of any library be it reference or circulating may properly be measured by the extent of its *use*, therefore anything which will tend to increase its use must tend to its success. In order to increase the number of readers of Diocesan Library it is first of all necessary to make known its existence to the great army of Sunday-school teachers and officers, and Christian workers and thinkers in our city. This in a great measure must be the work of the clergy.

It is a significant fact, says the well-known librarian and writer on library subjects, William J. Fletcher,—that everywhere the clergy are found foremost in advancing the library movement. With abundant opportunities for knowing both theoretically and practically the advantages of such institutions, they are always out-spoken in their behalf. While books, even good books, are not always entitled to be called *means of grace*, whoever looks candidly at the matter will clearly see that only narrow and dwarfed ideas on Spiritual subjects and a distorted form of religious life can consist with poverty of resources in mind and intellect. None are more impressed with the need of culture to lay a basis for large, tolerant and truly Christian views and practices than those who endeavor to show to all sorts and conditions of men the Way the Truth and the Life. Not that their salvation is to begin with culture, but in order that religion may be all that it should, the enlargement and development of the higher faculties obviously should precede.

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Diocesan Library and Reading-Room,

North East Corner Twelfth and Walnut Streets,

PHILADELPHIA.

This Library fills a *vacant niche*, and supplies a *special need.*

It is designed chiefly for *Clergymen, Sunday School Teachers and other Christian Workers,*—

And furnishes them with books that are not in ordinary public libraries, and but few persons are able to buy,

And makes their use *absolutely free to the public.*

What the Library Needs.

HISTORIC RECORDS OF THE DIOCESE.

HISTORIC RECORDS OF THE GENERAL CHURCH.

RARE AND VALUABLE BOOKS OF REFERENCE.

ANNUAL AND LIFE MEMBERS.

A SMALL COLLECTION FROM EACH PARISH.

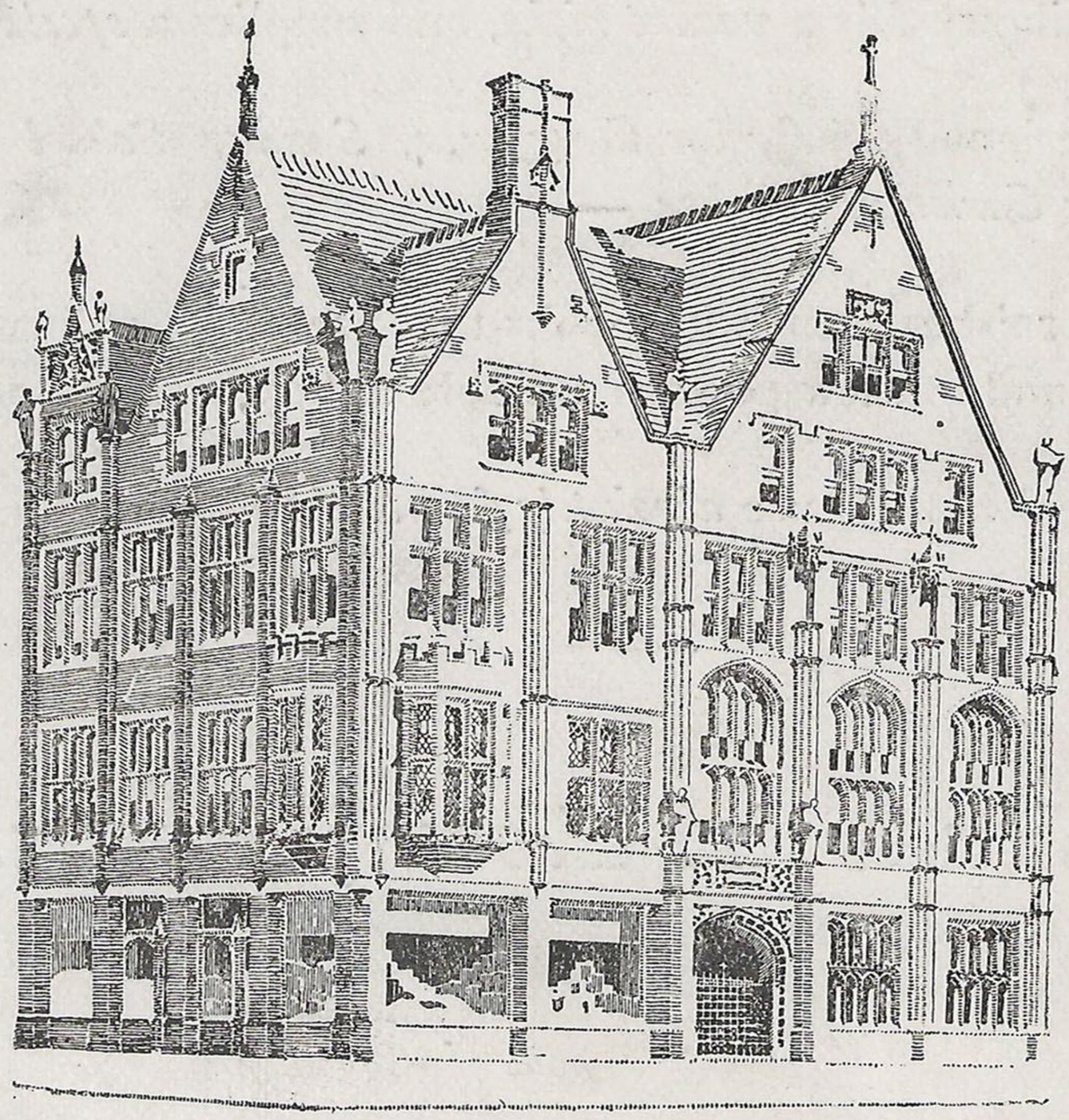
A GENEROUS ENDOWMENT.

DIOCESAN LIBRARY AND READING-ROOM,

IN THE

CHURCH HOUSE,

North East Corner Twelfth and Walnut Streets.



CHURCH HOUSE AND DIOCESAN LIBRARY.

BISHOP ALONZO POTTER MEMORIAL.

The Library is Open Freely to the Public
from 10 A. M. to 5 P. M.,
Except on Sundays and Legal Holidays.